

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In this amendment, no claims have been amended, canceled, or added. Thus, claims 1-15, 20-34, 36 and 37 will remain pending.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 1-9, 20-28, and 36-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Loong (U.S. Patent No. 7,020,864 B1) in view of Cong et al. ("Cut Ranking and Pruning: Enabling a General and Efficient FPGA Mapping Solution"). Claims 10-15 and 29-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Loong in view of Cong in further view of Wallace (U.S. Patent No. 7,020,855).

Applicants note that Loong qualifies as prior art only under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as the '864 patent was filed on November 24, 2003 and issued on March 28, 2006 and the present application has a filing date of December 8, 2003. Moreover, Loong and the present invention were, at the time the present invention was made, subject to an obligation of assignment to a common assignee, Altera Corporation. Hence, Loong is disqualified as prior art under 35 U.S.C. §103(c). As such, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of these rejections and allowance of these claims.

Appl. No. 10/731,593
Amdt. dated August 17, 2007
Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116 Expedited Procedure
Examining Group 2128

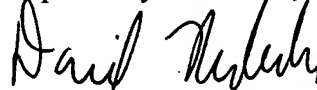
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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance and an action to that end is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,



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